



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 SIXTH AVENUE
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101

August 13, 1991

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8/13/91

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EPA-WOO

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

HW-113

Honorable Thomas Foley
US House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Foley:

This is in response to your inquiry of July 25, 1991, from a constituent, (b) (6) who expressed concern about hazardous waste activities occurring at a site owned by General Electric Corporation in the City of Spokane.

First, I want to clarify that hazardous wastes are not being disposed at the site. In fact, the purpose of the current activities mentioned by (b) (6) is to clean up the site which was contaminated by hazardous substances more than twenty years ago.

The General Electric site is on the National Priorities List (NPL) (a listing of sites contaminated by hazardous substances which receive special attention for cleanup), and is being managed by the Washington Department of Ecology pursuant to a written agreement with EPA. EPA placed the site on the NPL in October, 1989, largely because of its potential to contaminate the Spokane Aquifer.

General Electric, under the oversight of the Department of Ecology, is in the process of conducting the necessary investigations which will lead to eventual cleanup of the site. As part of these investigations, contractors hired by General Electric are preparing to conduct a demonstration test of a treatment method which may be used to cleanup the site. The vast majority of the test will be conducted on contaminated materials already present on site. The treatment method being tested is called In-Situ Vitrification and shows great promise of destroying hazardous organic substances and permanently immobilizing inorganic hazardous substances. The demonstration test is also being used by Geosafe Corporation, one of General Electric's contractors, to support an application for an EPA operating permit under the Toxics Substances Control Act. As part of this demonstration test, Polychlorinated Biphenyl oil will be used to spike the soil in one test cell in order to adequately test the efficiency of In-Situ Vitrification unit.

USEPA SF



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Both EPA and the Department of Ecology are responsible for ensuring that human health and the environment will be protected during the demonstration test, and for ensuring that the site will eventually be remediated so that it no longer endangers human health or the environment including the Spokane Aquifer. I believe the demonstration test is being designed with adequate safeguards to protect human health and the environment.

I hope this letter addresses your concerns. Please call me if you have questions or have your staff contact Bob Kievit at (206) 753-9014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dana A. Rasmussen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dana A. Rasmussen
Regional Administrator

CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE

Region Control No: C-91-83 Received in Region 10: 8/5/91
HQ Control No: AL913134 Due Date to Cong. Liaison: 8/14/91

FROM:

REPRESENTATIVE FOLEY

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED ACTIVITY ON SUPERFUND SITE

ASSIGNED TO: 1. ATD HW DATE: 8/5/91
CC: 2. WOO (INFORMATION COPY ONLY)

1. Prepare a response letter and return the letter by the above due date. Include a document name and ensure that the document remains on the system should correction be necessary.
2. Please prepare the signature for:
XX Regional Administrator Administrator Reilly
3. When preparing the letter, there should be an original letter, a concurrence copy, a RA reading file copy, and any other copies as needed.
4. The concurrence block should include the congressional liaison. The appropriate operations office concurrence may be by telephone conservation and noted in the concurrence block.
5. Provide all appropriate addresses on mailing label(s). DO NOT STICK THE LABELS ON THE ENVELOPES.
6. If you have any question(s), call Floyd Winsett at extension 1138 or FTS 399-1138.

Thank you for your cooperation.

If for some unforeseeable or difficult circumstances you are unable to meet the due date, please call before the date due and request an extension.

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR HELPFUL INFORMATION

Helpful tips in preparing congressional letter:

Senator in
Washington, DC: Honorable (Senator's Name)
 United States Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Senator away from
Washington, DC: Honorable (Senator's Name)
 United States Senator
 Street Address
 City, State Zip Code

US Representative
in Washington, DC Honorable (Representative's Name)
 US House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

US Representative
away from
Washington, DC Honorable (Representative's Name)
 Representative in Congress
 Street Address
 City, State Zip Code

Salutation:

Dear Senator (last
name of Senator)

Dear Senator (last
name of Senator)

Dear Congressman or
Congresswoman
(last name of
Representative)

Dear Congressman or
Congresswoman
(last name of
Representative)

Different ways in closing a congressional letter:

1. Thank you for your interest on this matter. If you have further questions, please call me at (206) 553-5810 or have your staff contact John Doe in our Oregon Operations Office in Portland at (503) 423-3250.
2. I hope this letter addresses your concerns. Please call me if you have further questions or have your staff contact Rob Smith at (206) 553-1792.
3. If we can be of further assistance, please call me or have your staff contact Rod Jackson at (206) 553-1792.

Example #1 is the style of writing that is most used and preferred in Region 10.

Signature Block:

Sincerely, (4 returns)

Sincerely,

(3 Blank Spaces)

(3 Blank Spaces)

Dana Rasmussen (No comma)
Regional Administrator

William K. Reilly
Administrator

NOTE: In letters, use the word "Enclosure(s)" and in memorandums, use the word "Attachment(s)".

THOMAS S. FOLEY
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

THE SPEAKER

PLEASE REPLY TO:

CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE:
☐ 1201 LONGWORTH HOB
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4705
AREA CODE (202) 225-2006

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

913134
PLEASE REPLY TO:
DISTRICT OFFICES:
☐ WEST 601 FIRST AVENUE
SECOND FLOOR WEST
SPOKANE, WA 99204
AREA CODE (509) 353-2155

☐ E. 12929 SPRAGUE
SPOKANE, WA 99216-0736
AREA CODE (509) 926-4434

☐ 28 W. MAIN
WALLA WALLA, WA 99362-2816
AREA CODE (509) 522-6372

July 25, 1991

Dear Mr. Koeze:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I have received from one of my constituents, (b) (6), expressing his concern that proposed activity on a Superfund site in Spokane, Washington, may affect the city's water supply.

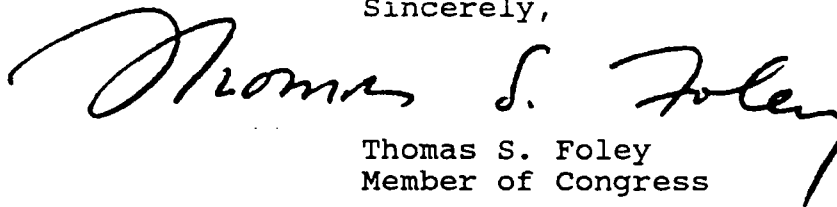
B This material was originally forwarded to the Department of Energy. They in turn referred it to Mr. Hiroshi Dodohara of the Chemical Regulations Branch of the Environmental Protection Agency, with the suggestion that he respond to me directly. After having received no response from the EPA, I contacted Mr. Dodohara on June 18, to determine the status of this correspondence.

As per our conversation, I have resubmitted a referral directly to the Environmental Protection Agency. The benefit of a technical response regarding the General Electric in-situ vitrification project at Spokane, Washington, would be of great value to me as I respond to my constituent's concerns.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

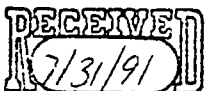
With best wishes.

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Foley
Member of Congress

Mr. Todd Koeze, Acting Director
Congressional Liaison
Environmental Protection Agency
401 "M" Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460

TSF:mfv



WATERLOO - SUM

ACKNOWLEDGED

THE HONORABLE THOMAS EILEY,
1201 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILD
WASHINGTON. D.C. 20515

DEAR SIR, SUBJECT, HAZARD WASTE
CONTRACTOR, BETTIE N. WEST
PROPERTY OWNER, GENERAL ELECTRIC
THE LOCATION IS WHERE MISSION AVE.
JOINS TRENT AVE. IN SPokane, WASH.

THE LAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE A
FEDERAL SUPER FUND PROJECT FOR THE
PURPOSE OF TURNING LIQUID WASTE
INTO GLASS BY USING A LARGE
ELECTRICAL SURGE OF POWER. THIS
SIR, IS A EXPERIMENT, AND THIS
PROJECT IS OVER THE AQUIFER. I
CAN UNDERSTAND G.E. WANTING TO CLEAN
UP THE LAND AND I CAN UNDERSTAND
THE EXPERIMENT THAT BETTIE NORTHWEST
WANTS TO DO, BUT, NOT OVER THE
AQUIFER THAT THE GOVERNMENT AND TAX
PAYERS ARE SPENDING MILLIONS OF

DOLLARS TO PUT IN A SEWER SYSTEM
TO PROTECT.

WHEN YOU DIG A PIT (40) FIFTY
FEET DEEP IN THE SPOKANE VALLEY, YOU
ARE NOT VERY FAR FROM WATER AND WE
HAVE MILLIONS OF ACRES OF LAND NOT
THE EXPERIMENT COULD HAVE BEEN DONE
ON, BUT NOT OVER OUR AQUIFER WE
ARE TRYING TO PROTECT.

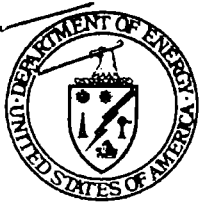
IT IS OF MY OPINION THAT THIS
SUPER FUND PROJECT GET A COMPLETE
INVESTIGATION FROM TOP TO BOTTOM, OUR
WATER IS THAT IMPORTANT.

RESPECTFULLY,

(b) (6)

SPOKANE, WA. 89212 -

2710



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

February 26, 1991

The Honorable Thomas S. Foley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Foley:

Thank you for your letter from your constituent, (b) (6) expressing concern about the General Electric in-situ vitrification demonstration project at Spokane, Washington. The Department of Energy is not involved in the management or operations of this project.

This project is being monitored by the State of Washington, Department of Ecology, and has a Toxic Control Substance permit from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The concerns raised by (b) (6) can best be addressed by EPA. I have forwarded your letter and (b) (6) letter to:

Mr. Hiroshi Dodohara
Chemical Regulations Branch
TS 798
Office of Toxic Substance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

I have suggested that Mr. Dodohara respond to you directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leo P. Duffy", is written over the typed name and title.

Leo P. Duffy
Director
Office of Environmental Restoration
and Waste Management

cc:
Hiroshi Dodohara, EPA



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

February 26, 1991

Mr. Hiroshi Dodohara
Chemical Regulations Branch
TS 798
Office of Toxic Substance
U.S. Environmental Protective Agency
401 E. Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

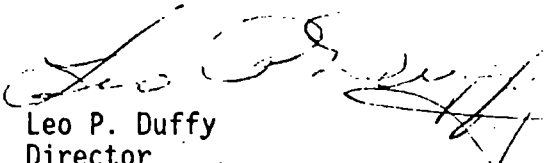
Dear Mr. Dodohara:

I am forwarding a letter to you that I received from The Honorable Thomas F. Foley. Since the referenced project has been permitted by your office, I believe you are in a better position to respond to his request.

You were copied on my response to The Honorable Thomas S. Foley suggesting that you could provide accurate information about the referenced project.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,


Leo P. Duffy
Director
Office of Environmental Restoration
and Waste Management

Enclosure

cc:
The Honorable Thomas S. Foley
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

PENDING D/ENERGY

file

January 9, 1991

Jacqueline Knox Brown
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Affairs
Department of Energy
Forrestal Building
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Ms. Brown:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter I have received from one of my constituents, (b) (6) expressing his concern that proposed activity on a particular Superfund site in Spokane, Washington, may affect the city's water supply.

I will appreciate having the benefit of your comments on this matter.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Foley
Member of Congress

TSE:swm
enclosure